

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /058 W  
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P R 151035Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON PRIORITY 5300  
INFO AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
AMCONSUL GENOA  
AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL PALERMO

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E.O. 116542: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: RESULTS OF JUNE 12/13 MINI-ELECTIONS

REF: A) ROME 8077; B) ROME 6392

SUMMARY. JUNE 12/13 "MINI-ELECTIONS" SAW LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE ITALIAN ELECTORATE GO TO THE POLLS TO RENEW LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS IN SEVERAL SMALL TOWNS AND WARD COUNCILS IN LIVORNO, COMO, AND CREMONA. WHILE THE SAMPLING IS ADMITTEDLY SMALL, THESE RESULTS, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE LAST "MINI-TEST" IN APRIL, INDICATE THE FOLLOWING TRENDS: COMMUNIST (PCI) DECLINES IN THE SOUTH COUPLED WITH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (DC) GAINS; MARGINAL PCI GAINS IN THE NORTH WITH THE DC HOLDING ITS OWN; AND MIXED RESULTS FOR THE INTERMEDIATE PARTIES, INCLUDING LOSSES BY THE EXTREME RIGHT. END SUMMARY.

1. LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE ITALIAN VOTERS WENT TO THE  
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POLLS ON JUNE 12/13 TO ELECT MEMBERS OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS IN A NUMBER OF TOWNS AND OF WARD COUNCILS IN LIVORNO, COMO, AND CREMONA. ELECTIONS FOR TOWN ADMINISTRATIONS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THOSE FOR WARD COUNCILS SINCE THE LATTER HAVE VIRTUALLY NO POWER IN THE CURRENT ITALIAN CONTEXT.

2. IN THE TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS (MOSTLY IN THE SOUTH), THE

BIGGEST SURPRISE OCCURRED IN CAPUA (CASERTA PROVINCE) WHERE THE DC INCREASED ITS VOTE BY OVER 10 PERCENT IN COMPARISON WITH THE LAST LOCAL ELECTIONS IN 1972, OBTAINING AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF THE SEATS AT STAKE. THE PCI DROPPED MAGINALLY IN COMPARISON WITH 1972 AND LOST THREE PERCENT COMPARED WITH NATIONAL ELECTIONS LAST JUNE. (THE DC WAS UP ABOUT NINE PERCENT OVER THE 1976 RESULTS.) PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS THE LOCAL CAPUA ADMINISTRATION CONSISTED OF A PCI-PSI-PSDI COALITION. OVERALL IN THE VOITNG FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS, THE DC GOT APPROXIMATELY 46 PERCENT OF THE VOTE, A GAIN OF NERALLY SIX PERCENT AGAINST THE 1976 ELECTIONS AND THE PREVIOUS LOCAL ELECTIONS. THE PCI, AT 26.6 PERCENT, WAS DOWN SIX PERCENT IN COMARIOSN WITH ITS 1976 TOTALS AND DOWN, 3.1 PERCENT IN COMAPRISON WITH ITS TOTAL IN THE PREVIOUS TOWN ELECTIONS.

3. THE PRCENTAGE OF THOSE VOITNG IN WARD ELCTIONS WAS SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN NORMALLY OCCURS IN MORE IMPORTANT ELECTIONS. IN LIVORNO, WHICH HAS BEEN RULED BY THE PCI FOR YEARS, THE COMMUNIST ADDED TO THE PERCENTAGES THEY ATTAINED IN BOTH THE PREVIOUS LOCAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELCTIONS BY TAKING 56 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. THE DC TOTAL OF 22.7 PERCENT WASA SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PARTY'S PERFORMANCE IN THE LAST LOCAL ELECTIONS, BUT REFLECTED A SLIGHT DROP AGAINST ITS 1976 TOTAL IN LIVORNO. BOTH THE DC AND PCI RECORDED SMALL GAINS IN COMO AND CREMONA. OVERALL IN THE WARD ELECTIONS THE PCI MADE A SMALL (1.8 PERCENT) GAIN WHILE THE DC HELD ITS GROUND AGAINST THE RESUTLS OF THE 1976 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

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4. THE BIG LOSER IN THE VOTING WAS THE RIGHT IN GENERAL AND THE MSI IN PARTICULAR. THE NEW-FASCISTS SAW SOME OF THEIR STRENGTH CUT AWAY BY THE PARTICIPATION IN SOME OF THE ELECTIONS BY THE BREAKAWAY DEMOCRAZIA NAZIONALE GROUP. THE PSI SHOWED ONLY TINY GAINS AGAINST ITS PERFORMANCE IN 1976 AND WAS STILL WELL BELOW ITS PERFORMANCE IN THE LAST COMMUNAL ELECTIONS. THE PSDI ALSO REGISTERED SLIGHT GAINS WHILE THE REPUBLICANS AND LIBERAL REMINED STEADY.

5. COMMENT. WHILE THE SAMPLING IS ADMITTEDLY SMALL, THESE RESULTS, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE LAST "MINI-TEST" IN APRIL, INDICATE CERTAIN TRENDS. FIRST, SEEMS TO BE A DECLINE IN PCI ELECTORAL FORTUNES IN THE SOUTH, AND FOR THE SECOND TIME THE PARTY HAS FARED BADLY IN AN AREA WHERE IT HAS BEEN IN CONTROL OF A LOCAL COUNCIL. IN THE TWO INSTANCES WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN IN OPPOSITON, THE DC HAS MADE MAJOR GAINS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN THE NORTH THE PCI SHOWS SIGNS OF MAINTAINING ITS STRENGTH ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT MAKING ANY MAJOR GAINS OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THOSE WHICH OCCURRED BETWEEN 1972 AND 1976. AT THE SAME

TIME, THE DC IS MAINTAINING ITS VOITNG STRENGTH IN THE  
NORTH OF THE COUNTRY. FINALLY, THE INTERMEDIATE PARTIES ARE  
GENERALLY HAVING MIXED RESULTS WITH THE SOCIALISTS PROBABLY  
DISAPPOINTED BY THEIR FAILURE TO MAKE ANY PROGRESS AND WITH  
THE RIGHT SHOWING FURTHER SIGNS OF DECLINE. LOCAL ELECTION IN  
NOVEMBER IN WHICH MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE WILL GO  
TO THE POLLS WILL PROVIDE THE NEST TEST OF VOTER  
SENTIMENT AND WILL INDICATE WHETHER THESE TRENDS CONTINUE.  
GARDNER

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